



AGENDA ITEM 6.A.

MEETING: December 19, 2023
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Santsche, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Preview of Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, LAFCos are required to prepare municipal service reviews (MSRs) prior to or in conjunction with its mandate to review and update each local agency's sphere of influence (SOI) every five years or as needed. The legislative intent of the MSR is to inform the Commission as to the availability, capacity, and efficiency of local governmental services prior to making sphere of influence determinations. Municipal service reviews may also lead LAFCos to take other actions under their authority, such as forming, consolidating, or dissolving one or more local agencies in addition to any related sphere changes.

DISCUSSION:

This MSR evaluates fire services provided in the broader Weaverville region and includes four different agencies:

- Douglas City Community Services District (CSD)
- Junction City Fire Protection District (FPD)
- Lewiston Community Services District (CSD)
- Weaverville Fire Protection District (FPD)

Attached for the Commissions review are two of the four agency profiles including Douglas City CSD and Weaverville FPD. Staff have been able to work with district representatives to obtain information about the current provision of fire services such as staffing, calls for service, governance, finances, and other supporting information. Staff will continue to work with the districts and anticipates bringing forward the next two draft agency profiles in February 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission receive the staff report and provide direction as necessary.

Attachments:

- A – Weaverville FPD Draft Agency Profile
- B – Douglas City CSD Draft Agency Profile

6.0 WEAVERVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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6.1 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Agency Overview

The Weaverville Fire Protection District (herein referred to as “Weaverville FPD” or “District”) provides fire protection services to the community of Weaverville, located in eastern Trinity County off of State Route 299. Weaverville is the most populated community in the County and offers the largest selection of grocery stores, restaurants, lodging opportunities, health facilities, and more. This community is also the Trinity County seat and is where numerous governmental offices are located, such as the County Courthouse.

Table 6-1: Weaverville FPD Contact Information

Primary Contact(s)	Todd Corbett, Fire Chief Serena Brown, Admin Officer
E-mail Address	chief@wfdca.org wfdclerk@wfdca.org
Physical/Mailing Address	125 Bremer Street / PO Box 447
Phone Number	530-623-6156
Website	https://www.wfdca.org/district

District Principal Act

The District's principal act is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (California Health and Safety Code §13800-13970). The principal act dates to 1921 and was comprehensively updated by the California Legislature in 1947, 1961 and most recently in 1987. It empowers FPDs to provide a moderate range of municipal service functions tied to fire services including fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material emergency response, ambulance, and other services related to life and property protection.

Weaverville FPD is currently authorized to provide fire protection, rescue, search and rescue, and public assistance. Other services authorized in the District's principal act but not identified in the formation resolution or by documented activation of powers are “latent,” meaning that the District could exercise these services in the future if LAFCo permitted the authorization, per Government Code §56824.10-14. At this time, the only latent power available for activation is the provision of ambulance services. The District currently has no interest in expanding its provided services to include this latent power.

Formation and Development

Historically, Weaverville has experienced numerous devastating fires which prompted the establishment of the community's first de facto fire department, a Hook and Ladder company, in 1860. In April 1898, a three-member board was appointed by the County Supervisors to act as Fire Commissioners and later in the month, the Weaverville Fire Protection District was formed in order to establish more formal fire protection in the area. The District did not serve as an organized firefighting department and instead, largely enacted fire safety regulations within the community.

In 1905, another disastrous fire hit the area, highlighting the need for an organized firefighting department to be established in the community. As a result, the Fire Commissioners purchased firefighting equipment including a hand pumper engine, hose carts, and fire hydrants in 1906. Later that year, a 40-member Weaverville Volunteer Fire Department (herein referred to as “Weaverville VFD” or “Department”) was established.

The two organizations, the Weaverville FPD and VFD, work together as one entity to provide fire protection services. The Weaverville FPD is the governing agency that determines Fire ordinances, enforces regulations, and oversees the functions and operations of the VFD. The Weaverville VFD, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, is able to engage in fundraising opportunities within the community and provide additional support for the volunteers. The FPD is limited in the type and amount of support it can directly offer volunteers due to being subject to additional regulations that the VFD is exempt from.

Boundary and Sphere of Influence

The District's boundary encompasses approximately 4,073 acres or 6.4 square miles (**Figure**). Within the District's boundary there are 1,887 parcels; a majority of the parcels are developed with residential uses or commercial facilities.

The nearest major roadways are State Route 3 and State Route 299 which run through Weaverville. As the most developed community in the County, the majority of the roads throughout the community are paved major access roads.

Currently, the District's adopted sphere of influence is larger than its jurisdictional boundary, indicating the need for services and potential annexation in the future. However, there are areas beyond the current sphere that are not within any local jurisdiction responsible for providing fire protection services.

Land Use and Zoning

Land uses in the Weaverville FPD are subject to the Trinity County General Plan (1988) and Zoning Regulations (Trinity County Code Title 17). The County is in the process of updating its General Plan, with an anticipated completion expected in August 2025. Upon completion and adoption of the Trinity County General Plan 2050, land use designations will be subject to this plan instead of the 1988 version. The Weaverville area is subject to the Weaverville Community Plan of 1997 (Plan), which serves to supplement the Trinity County General Plan.

The main core of the community consists of land use designations public facility, commercial, single family residential – high and low densities, multi-family residential – high and low densities, and industrial (**Figure**). Areas outside of this main core are largely designated as open space, rural residential, and community expansion. The District is bordered almost entirely by agricultural designated lands, with a small amount of open space and rural residential.

Figure 6-1: Weaverville FPD Boundary and SOI

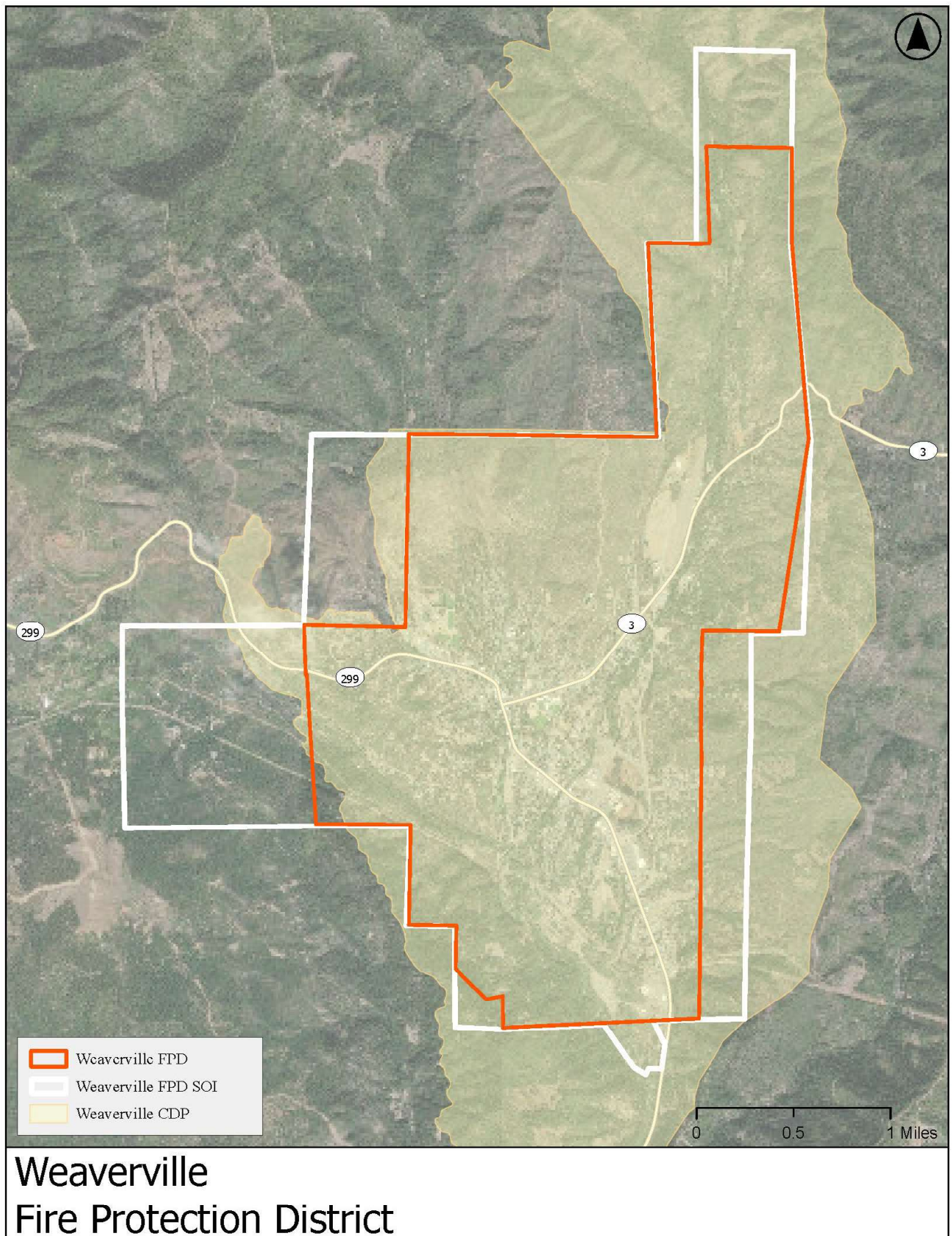
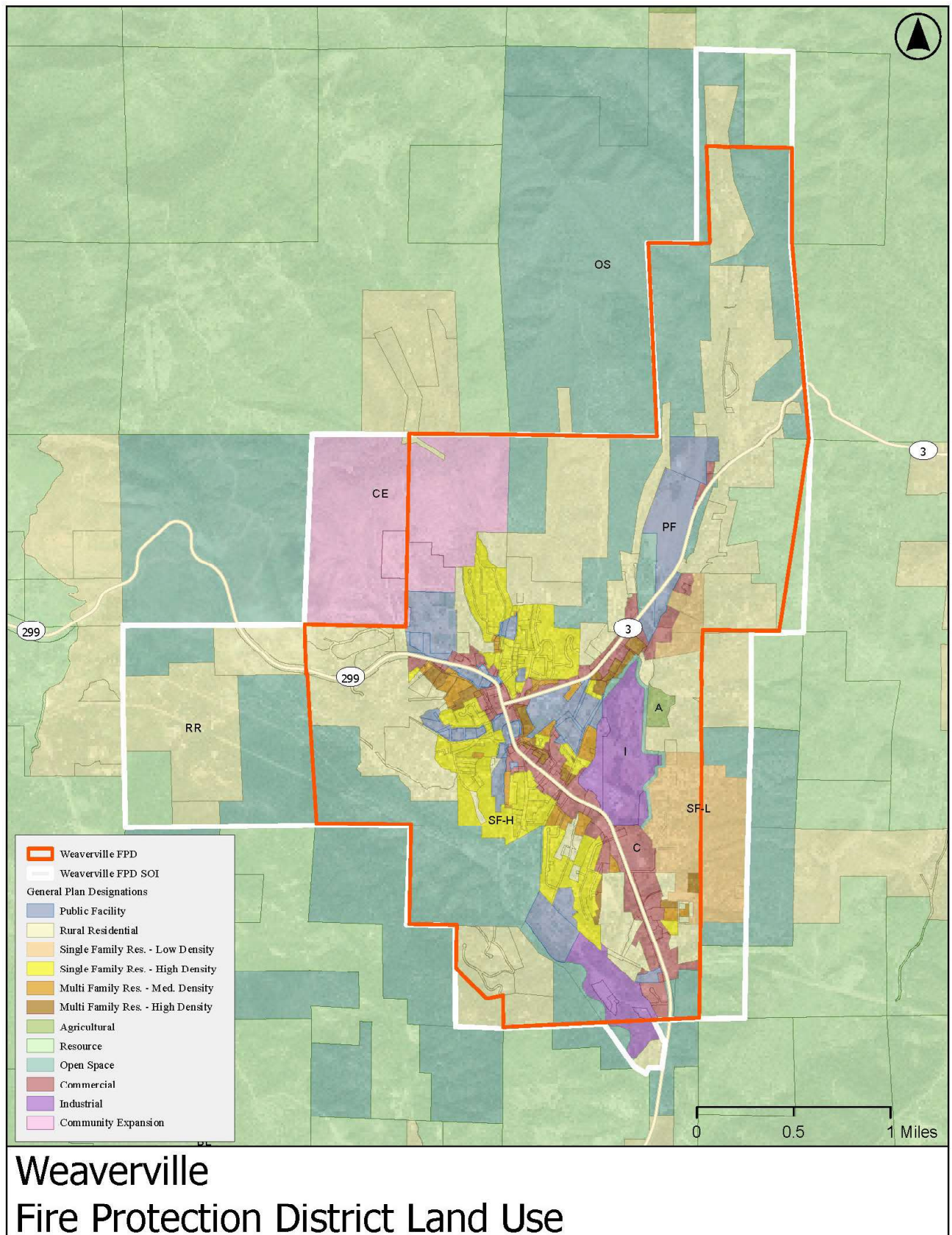


Figure 6-2: Weaverville FPD Land Uses



Growth and Population

The population of Weaverville FPD is approximately 3,667 according to the 2020 decennial Census data. American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic and Housing Estimates approximate the District's 2021 population to be 3,962. However, the ACS 5-Year data estimates have a large margin of error and are known to be less accurate than decennial Census data. Personal communication with the District also supports the population to be approximately 3,667; as such, this estimate is used for the purposes of this report.

Trinity County's population was estimated to be 16,112 as of the 2020 decennial Census. According to the California Department of Transportation (DOT), the County's population is expected to decline by 0.4 percent per year from 2021-2026.

Based on the estimated population and historical growth for the area, it is unlikely that the District will grow substantially over the next five to ten years. It is likely that the District's population will follow a similar trend to that of the County, declining by 0.4 percent each year.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

The 2021 estimated median household income (MHI) of the District is \$42,023¹ according to the ACS 5-Year Estimates, which is approximately 50 percent of the estimated 2021 California MHI of \$84,907. The County has an estimated MHI of \$42,206, which is approximately 50 percent of the State's MHI. Thus, both the County and the District qualify as disadvantaged.

6.2 GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Governing Body

Weaverville FPD is an independent special district served by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected to four-year staggered terms. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 125 Bremer Street (Fire Station #21) in Weaverville, CA.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act which requires agendas to be posted at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public. Board agendas and notices are posted at the bulletin board in Fire Station #21, the District's website, and in The Trinity Journal at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings.

Table 6-2: Board of Directors

Board Member	Title	Term
Rick Wetzel	Chairman	12/4/2020 -12/6/2024
Bill Fischer	Vice-Chairman	12/4/2020 -12/6/2024
Todd Watkins	Commissioner	12/2/2022 - 12/4/2026
Larry Helsley	Commissioner	12/2/2022 - 12/4/2026
George Owen	Commissioner	12/4/2020 -12/6/2024

¹ Table S1903 Median Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2021.

Staffing

Weaverville FPD currently employs two full-time paid positions: a Fire Chief/Marshal and an Administrative Officer. The Fire Chief/Marshal currently conducts inspections of businesses, residences, sprinklers, life safety, and other compliance inspections; enforces the fire code; investigates fires to determine origin and cause; and oversees the functions and operations of the District.

Accountability and Transparency

SB929 was signed into law on September 14, 2018, requiring all independent special districts to have and maintain a website meeting all the special district transparency requirements of State law including the availability of agendas, policies, and financial information by January 1, 2020. Weaverville FPD does maintain a website (<https://www.wfdca.org/district>) and is in compliance with all of the requirements of SB929. The specific requirements of SB929 and the District's compliance status for each requirement are delineated below (Table 6-3).

Table 6-3: SB929 Website Posting Requirements

Type of Requirement	Description of Requirement	Is the District in compliance?
District Contact Information	The bill does not state the specific contact information required. We recommend posting, at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Physical address o Mailing address o Phone number o E-mail address 	Yes
Most Recent Agenda	The most recent agenda must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting o Linked on the homepage of the website, navigating directly to the current agenda o Searchable, indexable, and platform-independent (simply put, post the agenda as a PDF) 	Yes
Financial Transaction Report	The State Controller's report for the District's Financial Transaction report must be posted or linked to the corresponding State Controller website.	Yes
Staff Compensation Report	The State Controller's report for the District's Staff Compensation report must be posted or linked to the corresponding State Controller website.	Yes
Enterprise System Catalog	As required by SB272, the Enterprise System Catalog must be posted. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Current system vendor o Current System product o System's purpose o A description of categories or types of data o Department that is the prime data custodian o Frequency in which system data is collected and updated 	Yes

The District has contact information posted in a visible area of the website. Board meeting agenda packets and meeting minutes are posted in freely accessible locations for District residents in advance of the meeting in compliance with the Brown Act. The current agenda is posted on the homepage of the website, directly linking to a PDF copy of the agenda. Additionally, the website contains links to the State Controller's Financial Transaction Report website and the State Controller's Compensation Report website, where District financial

information can be found. The District also has the Enterprise System Catalog posted on the website. Although not a requirement of SB929, the District is encouraged to make the last three, or most recent, fiscal year budgets and the most recent audit available online to further increase transparency beyond what is required by State law.

6.3 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Service Overview

Weaverville FPD owns and maintains two fire stations that serve the greater Weaverville area: Fire Station #21, located at 125 Bremer Street, and Fire Station #2, located at 290 East Weaver Street. Both stations are in good condition and have undergone facility improvements in recent years.

Fire Station #21 has a full gym onsite and is available for use by volunteers. This station has received energy-efficient upgrades on LED lighting fixtures, five HVAC units, and new, insulated garage doors. Security cameras have been recently installed at this station. The District recently implemented a carcinogenic reduction program at Fire Station #21, which included the purchasing of a structure gear extractor and dryer and a standard clothing washer and dryer. Washing firefighting gear separate from normal clothing prevents normal clothing being contaminated with the carcinogens that are washed off of gear.

Fire Station #2 has recently undergone remodeling. Originally, Fire Station #2 was used to store reserve apparatuses but now has been restaffed with the responding apparatuses. The remodeling of this station consisted of renovating the living quarters to resemble a studio apartment with a kitchen; replacing the electric and plumbing infrastructure; and the building of a multi-purpose day recreation room.

Demand

Weaverville FPD receives an average of 500 calls per year. In 2022, the Department responded to 695 calls, an all-time record. The number of calls the Department has received each year has been steadily increasing since 2018 (**Table 6-4**). Overwhelmingly, Medical Public Assistance calls are the largest type of incident the Department responds to; from 2018-2022, these incidents made up between 59 percent and 64 percent of the total calls.

Table 6-4: Weaverville FPD Call Status Summary

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Structure Fire	11	13	14	17	7
Vehicle Fire	7	3	7	9	2
Flue Fire	3	1	1	2	4
Smoke Check	36	52	44	38	37
Vegetation Fire	14	20	22	14	11
Fire False Alarm	28	27	37	46	48
Fire Other	4	7	4	12	10
Medical Public Assistance	316	362	329	382	445
Medical Motor Vehicle Accident	42	35	32	31	32
Rescue Public Assistance	4	1	4	5	3
Public Assistance False Alarm	15	9	7	9	8
Public Assistance Other	27	50	52	71	84

Fuel Spill HazMat	1	1	0	1	2
Propane Leak HazMat	2	0	0	3	1
HazMat False Alarm	0	0	2	4	1
HazMat Other	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL CALLS	510	581	555	644	695

Personnel

Weaverville FPD typically has approximately 26 volunteers on its roster. At the beginning of 2023, the Department had 27 volunteers. This is a decrease from the 2022 roster counting 30 volunteers. The Department has a core group of volunteers that respond to nearly all calls, with other volunteers supplementing this core group. The Department averages 2,300 volunteer hours per year. However, this average does not include the time spent on-scene for vehicle accidents, fire-related calls, or the numerous community events the volunteers participate in throughout the year.

Recruitment and Retention

Weaverville VFD hosts fundraising events such as their Fourth of July Barbeque Fundraiser, Open House, and Engine Demo; Mother's Day Rose Delivery Fundraiser; Firewood Raffle; Valentine's Day Rose Sale; and more throughout the year. The Department is always looking for new members and attempts to recruit volunteers through the following methods:

- Public Events – The VFD is active in the community and attends numerous public events throughout the year including local football games, elementary and high school events, the Historic Car Show, Fire Prevention Week, Halloween events, the Harvest Festival, and more. Typically, the Department provides life-safety standbys at events. This includes having staff members and necessary equipment located at and fully dedicated to the event, should services be required at any point. When services are not required, the VFD is able to increase the community's engagement with the Department and provide interested parties with recruitment opportunities, education on the Department's operations, and other information as needed.
- Social Media – The Department is very active on their Facebook page and in addition to providing the community with important information, promotes available volunteer opportunities. The VFD attended the Trinity County College and Career Expo in May 2023 and heavily promoted this event on their Facebook page by posting past and present VFD volunteers' first-hand accounts of their experiences volunteering with the Department. Additionally, the District has a small YouTube presence where interested parties can visually learn more about the VFD's operations,
- Newspaper Publications – Including the Trinity Journal and other publications.
- Mini-movie – The Trinity Theatre, a local movie theatre in Weaverville, offers advertising that plays prior to movies being shown. The VFD has created a mini-movie that is shown in this manner as a recruitment tactic. As the only movie theatre in Trinity County, this theatre is frequented by members of neighboring communities in addition to those residing in Weaverville. As such, this recruitment and advertising tactic has a widespread reach.
- Website – The VFD website has a section specifically pertaining to volunteering with the Department. There are easily accessible links to the volunteer brochure and membership application, which has options to apply for Explorer (aged 14-21), Regular (18+), or Support Services. The Explorer Program allows for youth to explore careers in the fire or

emergency services field. Support Services volunteers assist the volunteer firefighters before, during, and after, an incident through means of maintenance, public events, marketing, cooking, fundraising, recruitment and retention, and more components.

Training

Weaverville FPD volunteers participate in four trainings per month; each training is approximately two to three hours long for a total of eight to twelve training hours logged each month. Each year, the District averages approximately ___ training hours. The volunteers on the 2023 roster largely hold the training qualifications of Fire Responder (EMR), Wildland (CICCS), and Fire Fighter I or above (**Table 6-5**). Many of the volunteers are qualified in certain training subjects due to training experience, notably Hazmat First Responder Operations and Rope Rescue, but have not yet received official certification in the subject.

Table 6-5: Training Qualifications

Training Qualification	# of Members Trained	# of Members Qualified
Fire Fighter I or above	13	17
Wildland (CICCS)	13	17
First Responder (EMR)	18	12
EMT	0	7
Paramedic	0	2
HazMat First Responder Ops.	3	27
Rope Rescue	10	20
Swift Water Rescue	10	11
Fire Investigation	1	1
Fire Instruction	2	2
Driver/Operator	5	17

Infrastructure and Facilities

For training, the District used to utilize the training tower located at Shasta College approximately 48.5 miles away from Fire Station #21. This location added an approximate two-hour round-trip commute on top of the two-to-three-hour monthly trainings, which is inconvenient and difficult to accommodate. The District has been looking into other training location options and recently constructed a new live fire training facility, funded entirely by community donations. Live fire training structures are a critical component to firefighter training, as they provide the ability to train with live fire in a controlled environment.

The land for the training facility was acquired during a land trade with the Bureau of Land Management over 40 years ago and is partly owned by the County due to its proximity to the County yard. The construction of the live fire training structure is a multi-phase project, with Phase I coming to completion in the coming months. At present, the facility consists of three large shipping containers which are placed in a configuration that resembles a residential structure. Phase 2 will incorporate additional shipping containers to create a second-story layout. Once Phase 2 is complete, likely in 2024, firefighters will be able to train with ladders, rappelling, and ventilation to practice civilian rescue and fire suppression from a second story.

Weaverville FPD currently has five fire trucks, one water tender, and four utility vehicles in service (**Table 6-6: Weaverville FPD Apparatus Information Table 6-6**). The District also has three legacy

vehicles, two of which are used in local parades, and the other which is located in the Richard C. Barrien Fire Museum in Weaverville.

Table 6-6: Weaverville FPD Apparatus Information

Station	Station Address	Apparatus	Common Name	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
Fire Station #21	125 Bremer Street	2131	International/BME	1997	3	500	500
			Freightliner/Pierce Pumper	2005	1		
			HME Hi-Tech TCM	1995	1		600
			Rescue Vehicle	2009			
		B2103	Utility Vehicle	2015			
			Ladder Truck	1990			
		2161	Utility Vehicle	2016			
		2141	Water Tender	2016	6	500	2000
		C2101	Utility Vehicle	2019			
	2132	Wildland Model 34	2023	3		500	
Fire Station #2	290 East Weaver Street		American LaFrance Model 12	1917		350	85
			GMC Van Pelt Co., Inc	1953		1000	500

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest being 10.

As of 2022, the Weaverville FPD's rating is a 3/3Y. The Department has a "3" rating for properties located within five road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant and a "3Y" rating for properties located within five road miles of a fire station but more than 1,000 feet away from a fire hydrant. As a part of the PPC survey, it was identified by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) that Fire Station #2 did not meet the minimum requirements for recognition. The community of Weaverville benefits from reduced insurance premiums as a result of the 3/3Y rating.

Challenges and Needs

One of the largest challenges the Department faces is the recruitment of volunteers. Recruitment of volunteer firefighters is typically very difficult in rural communities, and Weaverville is no exception. Despite the numerous recruitment tactics the Department employs, it is still a challenge to have a consistent volunteer roster each year. The Department has observed a steep decline in the number of people willing to become volunteers in recent years. While the Department does have a small group of dedicated volunteers, this group is becoming very burnt out and overworked due to the large commitment. The Department was originally set up as a volunteer firefighting department based on a call volume that was vastly smaller than that of today. As the Department's call volume increases, the workload and commitment

are becoming increasingly too much for a volunteer firefighter to handle. As such, the District is in critical need of additional paid staff. The District is very interested in exploring funding options that would allow for the Weaverville VFD to transition to a combination department with career staff, supplemented by volunteer or reserve staff.

The District is experiencing an increase in inspections and code compliance visits due to an increase of businesses, new developments, and expanding this service to include the cannabis industry. At present, the Fire Chief is taking on the job duties of Fire Marshal as well as those associated with being Chief. He is responsible for facilitating these compliance visits, which takes up a large amount of his workload. The hiring of an additional paid staff member would cover these job duties of conducting yearly testing; ensuring code compliance of buildings, schools, residences, and other facilities; conducting other inspections; and more. This would allow for the Fire Chief to be less burdened with responsibilities, allowing him to focus more on Chief-related tasks such as managing the operations of the District. Paid firefighters, such as a Captain/Firefighter or Captain/Engineer, would also be beneficial for the District. These positions would provide daytime fire coverage and complete tasks around the station including general maintenance, testing, inspections, and other tasks.

Accomplishments and Successes

The District has had numerous notable accomplishments in recent years. One of the largest successes of the District is the completion of improvements to Fire Station #21 and #2. These improvements are detailed in the *Infrastructure and Facilities* section of this document.

In 2023, the District was able to purchase a new Type III Wildland Engine, which cost over \$500,000. Community donations and support from the Trinity River Lumber Mill and Schmidbauer Family Trust provided much needed funding to support this purchase. Wildland fire is the largest vulnerability for the District, highlighting the need to increase wildland firefighting capabilities through the acquisition of wildland infrastructure. This 2023 BME Wildland Model 34 engine will respond to wildland fires and structure protection in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

Additionally, the District has implemented programs to improve firefighters' health and wellness. These programs include the carcinogenic reduction program, described above, and physical and mental health support. While the District has a full gym available at Fire Station #21, the District also offers programs that finance the cost of other gyms' memberships so that volunteers may work-out at other facilities. The District also provides the funding for volunteers to see a therapist, with transportation provided. Volunteers may opt to see a therapist at any time and for any reason with District support. If volunteers are injured while engaging in Department activities that prevent them from working their normal day job, the District offers an income replacement insurance plan.

Goals

In the near future, the District has three main goals. In 2024, the District is aiming to complete Phase 2 of the live fire training facility as described above. As soon as funding allows, the District has two apparatuses they'd like to purchase: A Type VI Wildland Engine and a new Type I Structure Engine.

A Type VI wildland engine is smaller and lighter than other wildland engines, such as the new Type III wildland engine purchased in early 2023. The smaller size of the Type VI engine will be beneficial for maneuvering narrow driveways and bridges with weight limits. This engine is a pickup truck with firefighting capabilities and does not require a special license for operation, making it easily operable by the volunteers.

The Trinity County Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) amend Section 17.18.060 of the Trinity County Code to change the height limit of the Multiple Family District (R-3) zone throughout the County from 25 feet to 45 feet. At the November 7th, 2023, BOS meeting, the BOS approved the ordinance to allow the height limit change exclusively within the Weaverville Fire District boundaries, as opposed to the entire County. The Weaverville FPD is the only fire protection service provider in the County that has a ladder truck that can reach the new 45 feet height limit. The District's current structure engines are aging, with 1991 and 2004 models. As such, the District is looking to invest in a taller ladder truck to ensure that fire suppression services can be provided as taller buildings are built in Weaverville. This taller ladder truck would be a new Type I Structure Engine.

Shared Services

Weaverville FPD is available for mutual aid upon request and is frequently called to aid. The District has automatic aid agreements with Douglas City CSD and Lewiston CSD to respond on 1st alarm to all structure fire calls. At this time, there is no automatic aid agreement between Junction City FPD and Weaverville FPD. Historically, the District has given more mutual aid than they have received (**Table 6-7**). The District has provided mutual aid response to every community in the County besides Kettenpom/Zenia.

Table 6-7: Mutual Aid Statistics 2018-2022

	Mutual Aid Given	Mutual Aid Received
2018	7	1
2019	12	4
2020	14	1
2021	14	2
2022	25	0

The District and CAL FIRE enact annual agreements for cooperative wildland fire management activities. As part of these agreements, both entities engage in mutual aid on District lands that are intermingled or adjacent to CAL FIRE managed lands. Additionally, the District receives seasonal reimbursements for in-unit wildland fire assignments (via assistance by hire and equipment rental). Weaverville FPD typically provides staff resources and supplies a water tender and one or more engines.

Other Service Providers

Water

The Weaverville Community Services District (WCSD), the largest water service provider in the County, provides water services to Weaverville although some households may rely on individual water wells as their water source. The WCSD primarily sources its water from surface water including East and West Weaver Creeks, Trinity River, wells, and springs. The service area is approximately 8,350 acres or 13 square miles and the WCSD serves approximately 3,554 customers.

Wastewater

The Weaverville Sanitary District provides wastewater services within Weaverville. The Weaverville SD is responsible for the collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal of the community's wastewater. Existing facilities consist of collection and transmission lines including 50 miles of pipeline, one lift station, and a treatment plant located at 630 Mountain View Street.

The SD serves approximately 1,300 service connections and there is no anticipated expansion of wastewater services.

Solid Waste Disposal

The Weaverville Transfer Station is located at 173 Tom Bell Road and provides solid waste disposal services for Weaverville and nearby communities.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD) manages and distributes power throughout most of Trinity County. TPUD purchases its power from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) pursuant to a first preference right to power produced by the Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project². TPUD does not operate any generation assets but instead provides sub-transmission and electricity distribution to approximately 12,000 customers in a 2,200 square mile area in Trinity County. There are nine substations which are both owned and operated by both WAPA (five served from this transmission system) and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) (four served from this transmission system). Trinity County has eight hydroelectric facilities that are either operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation or privately owned. These facilities are part of California's Central Valley Project and generate hydroelectric power. Energy produced by these facilities is managed by WAPA and transmitted to customers by TPUD.

PG&E is the only designated natural gas provider in the County. However, despite this designation, PG&E does not offer natural gas service to most areas within the County, leaving residents to rely on propane for natural gas needs.

Telecommunications

Verizon, AT&T, and other major service providers provide wireless telephone and broadband internet services to Weaverville. Wired telephone and cable internet service is offered by Velocity Communications. Velocity Communications offers services to over 700 square miles across Trinity, Shasta, and Humboldt Counties, including the Trinity County communities of Hayfork, Trinity Center, Lewiston, Junction City, Douglas City, and Weaverville. Satellite internet service is provided by HughesNet, Space Exploration Technology's (SpaceX) Starlink, and Viasat.

Emergency Medical Services

Trinity Life Support Community Services District (TLSCSD) operates two ambulances, one stationed in Hayfork and one in Weaverville, with a 2,100 square mile response area. Annually, the TLSCSD receives an average of 1,500 calls. The TLSCSD provides training in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, and public safety first aid while also offering American Heart Association community and professional level courses.

TLSCSD was formed in 2021 after a successful special election, which included voter approval of a special tax at a flat rate of \$45 per year for each parcel developed with residential or commercial uses, which generates approximately \$258,000 per year. In June 2022, TLSCSD entered into a contract with Mountain Communities Healthcare District (MCHD) for administrative, professional, and technical staffing support. The managing support agreement allows TLSCSD to maintain all their real property assets including ambulances and collectible taxes, while MCHD provides all ambulance services staffing, including administrative support (HR, billing, finance, administration, and other resources) to provide better economies of scale and reimbursement through MCHD's Critical Access Hospital designation.

² Trinity River Division Act of 1955

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is provided by the Trinity County Sheriff's Office. The California Highway Patrol is responsible for traffic control for State Route 299 and State Route 3, both of which are in close proximity to the District.

Parks and Recreation

The Weaverville/Douglas City Parks and Recreation District (Parks and Recreation District) serves the areas of Weaverville and Douglas City. The Parks and Recreation District maintains Lee Fong Park and Lowden Park Pool, administers adult and youth programs, and maintains any clinics and camps associated with those programs. Programs and clinics include sports such as basketball, volleyball, flag football, and soccer and focus on developing fundamental skills. Lee Fong Park, located off of Main Street in Weaverville, offers a disc golf course, amphitheater, covered picnic and BBQ areas, fruit trees, views of the Trinity Alps, and private function rentals.

Resource Conservation

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a countywide agency that protects and manages the natural resources of Trinity County through the provision of technical assistance and the implementation of projects and programs. The TCRCD also engages in educational programs and works to increase education on conservation throughout the County. The TCRCD engages in numerous wildfire mitigation projects including the implementation of the Trinity County Wildfire Mitigation Project and a myriad of fuels reductions and defensible space projects. For over 20 years, the TCRCD has engaged in fuels reductions projects that have resulted in the thinning of thousands of acres throughout the County's forests. Additionally, the TCRCD is in close collaboration with the Trinity County Fire Safe Council (TCFSC) in the development of the Trinity County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and the 2010, 2015, and 2020 updates to the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

6.4 FINANCING

Financial Overview

The Weaverville FPD Board of Directors is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal accounting control. The District Board is responsible for adopting an annual budget. In addition, monthly financial reports are presented to the Board for review and approval. The basic financial statements of the District are prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 13890-13906 requires a preliminary budget to be adopted on or before June 30 of each year and a final budget to be adopted on or before October 1 of each year. A copy of the final budget must be forwarded to the County Auditor-Controller (HSC 13895). Weaverville FPD complies with this requirement.

Revenues and Expenditures

Weaverville FPD is primarily supported through property taxes (also known as "ad valorem" taxes) and charges for services, including CAL Fire reimbursements. The main expenditures of the District are from funding reserve salaries, regular salaries, and equipment maintenance.

Table 6-8: Financial Data (FY 2021-22 through FY 2023-24)

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Property Tax			
Charges for Services			

Interest			
<i>Total Revenues</i>			
Salaries and Wages	\$433,310.80	\$491,044.18	\$498,239.01
Services and Supplies	\$265,478.24	\$265,703.00	\$261,869.77
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	\$698,789.04	\$756,747.18	\$760,108.78
Net Gain/(Loss)			

State Controller's Office

The District has submitted overall revenues and expenditures to the State Controller's Office consistently since 2003. According to the State Controller's Office, the District had an overall revenue of \$804,119 and expenditures of \$688,919 in FY 2021-2022. This is a net gain of \$115,200. Over the past six fiscal years reviewed, the District has operated at a net gain for five of the years (**Table 6-9**).

Out of the years reviewed, the largest source of revenue for the District was from current secured and unsecured revenues with the exception of FY 2021-2022, where charges for current services were the majority revenue source. Expenses consisted of the following: services and supplies; employee benefits; salaries and wages; and principal payments on long-term debt. Either services and supplies or salaries and wages were the largest contributing factors to the overall expenditures.

Table 6-9: State Controller's Office Summary

	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
Revenues	\$357,919	\$667,392	\$646,105	\$352,739	\$537,878	\$804,119
Expenditures	\$293,243	\$451,373	\$518,321	\$404,731	\$466,856	\$688,919
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$64,676	\$216,019	\$127,784	(\$51,992)	\$71,022	\$115,200

Audits

The District prepares annual audits. The most current audit will be available in early 2024. This section will be updated once the audit report is received.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

Weaverville FPD receives a percentage of ad valorem property taxes and relies on community donations, grants, and seasonal reimbursements from CAL FIRE (via strike team response, assistance by hire, or equipment rental) to fund services. The District does not have a special tax or assessment in place, which could be levied within the district boundary to effectively manage recurring costs, such as those associated with staffing, insurance, utilities, fuel, and equipment. In order to increase revenue to a sustainable level, the District could consider the following actions:

- Annex into the District any out of district service areas which receive goodwill services.
- Adopt an ordinance and fee schedule which charges out-of-district residents for services provided; especially for response to traffic accidents on Highway 299 or Highway 3.
- Pursue a special tax or assessment which would require approval from registered voters or property owners within the District boundaries.

3.0 DOUGLAS CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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3.1 DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Agency Overview

The Douglas City Community Services District (herein referred to as “Douglas City CSD” or “District”) provides fire protection services to the rural communities of Douglas City, Steiner Flat, Steel Bridge, and adjacent rural residential areas, located in eastern Trinity County off of State Route 3 and State Route 299. Douglas City is nestled just north of the Trinity River and is a small commercial and residential center known for its access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Nearby populated communities include Hayfork (approximately 25 miles west of Douglas City), Weaverville (approximately 6 miles north of Douglas City), and Lewiston (approximately 11 miles east of Douglas City).

Table 3-1: Douglas City CSD Contact Information

Primary Contact	Marty Mather, Fire Chief Lisa Harper, Secretary Amy Curry, Bookkeeper
E-mail Address	firechiefdcvfd@gmail.com
Physical/Mailing Address	100 Steiner Flat Road PO Box 10 Douglas City, CA 96024
Phone Number	530-623-5110
Website	N/A

District Principal Act

The District's principal act is the Community Services District Law, Division 3 of Title 6 of the Government Code ([§61000-61250](#)) which authorizes CSDs to provide up to 32 types of governmental services within their boundaries. Douglas City CSD is currently authorized to provide fire protection services, rescue services, and hazardous material emergency response services in the same manner as a fire protection district, formed pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law, Part 2.7 (commencing with Section 13800) of Division 12 of the Health and Safety Code. The District does not provide ambulance services.

Other services, facilities, functions, or powers enumerated in the District's principal act but not identified in the formation resolution or by documented activation of powers are “latent,” meaning that they are authorized by the principal act under which the District is formed but are not being exercised. Latent powers and services activation require LAFCo authorization as indicated in Government Code §56824.10-14.

Formation and Development

Douglas City CSD was formed as an independent special district on March 29, 1976, by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors (Resolution No. 25-76) after confirmation of voters on March 2, 1976. The District was organized under the Community Services District law for the purpose of providing fire protection services to the community. In 1985, a sphere of influence was established to be coterminous with the District's boundary (Resolution No. 85-11).

As identified in the Douglas City Community Plan (Plan) of 1987, the Poker Bar area located to the northeast of the District was the only concentrated residential area not served by the District. The Plan recommended that this area be annexed into the District. Subsequently, LAFCo

approved a sphere of influence amendment to include the Poker Bar/McIntyre Gulch area and the Blanchard Flat area (Resolution No. 87-06). On November 18, 1987, Trinity LAFCo approved the Poker Bar/McIntyre Gulch Annexation (Resolution No. 87-12) and the Blanchard Flat Annexation (Resolution No. 87-13).

Boundary and Sphere of Influence

Douglas City CSD's jurisdictional boundary encompasses approximately 14,095.5 acres or 22 square miles (based on GIS data). The boundary extends along State Route 299 from Little Browns Creek Road in the northern portion of the District to Old Poker Bar Creek Road in the eastern portion of the District, as well as south along State Route 3 to include the B-Bar-K Road and Deerlick Springs Road areas (**Figure 3-1**). The District boundary abuts Junction City FPD's boundary to the west and there are gaps between the District boundary and the Weaverville FPD to the north, Lewiston CSD to the east, and Hayfork FPD to the south. The majority of the areas between communities are undeveloped territory bisected by a State Highway where traffic collisions and medical calls are demanded. Rural residences along Lewiston Road between Douglas City CSD and Lewiston CSD are not within any local jurisdiction responsible for providing fire protection services. Douglas City Fire responds along 299 up to where Lewiston Road begins, whereas Lewiston Fire is typically the first to respond to calls in this area.

Currently, the District's adopted sphere of influence is mostly coterminous with its jurisdictional boundary apart from the Poker Bar/McIntyre Gulch area to the east and the Blanchard Flat area to the south, where the annexations of these areas in 1987 differed from the adopted sphere boundary. At present, the District's SOI is approximately 15,918 acres or 24.9 square miles. *[To be expanded once proposed SOI is confirmed].*

Land Use and Zoning

Land uses in Douglas City CSD are subject to the Trinity County General Plan (1988) and Zoning Regulations (Trinity County Code Title 17). The County is in the process of updating its General Plan, with anticipated completion in August 2025. Upon completion and adoption of the Trinity County General Plan 2050, land uses will be subject to this plan instead of the 1988 version. The Douglas City area is subject to the Douglas City Community Plan (1987), which serves to supplement the Trinity County General Plan.

Land use in the area served by the District is primarily resource, with moderately sized areas of agricultural and rural residential (**Figure 3-2**). The community core area of Douglas City – which includes the fire station, post office, elementary school, and other residential and commercial uses – has a land use designation of “village” that is applied to areas intended to contain a variety of land uses which serve the needs of the area. Several parcels east of Douglas City along State Route 299 are designated for commercial uses including the Indian Creek Mobile Home and RV Park and the Indian Creek Lodge.

Figure 3-1: Douglas City CSD Boundary and SOI

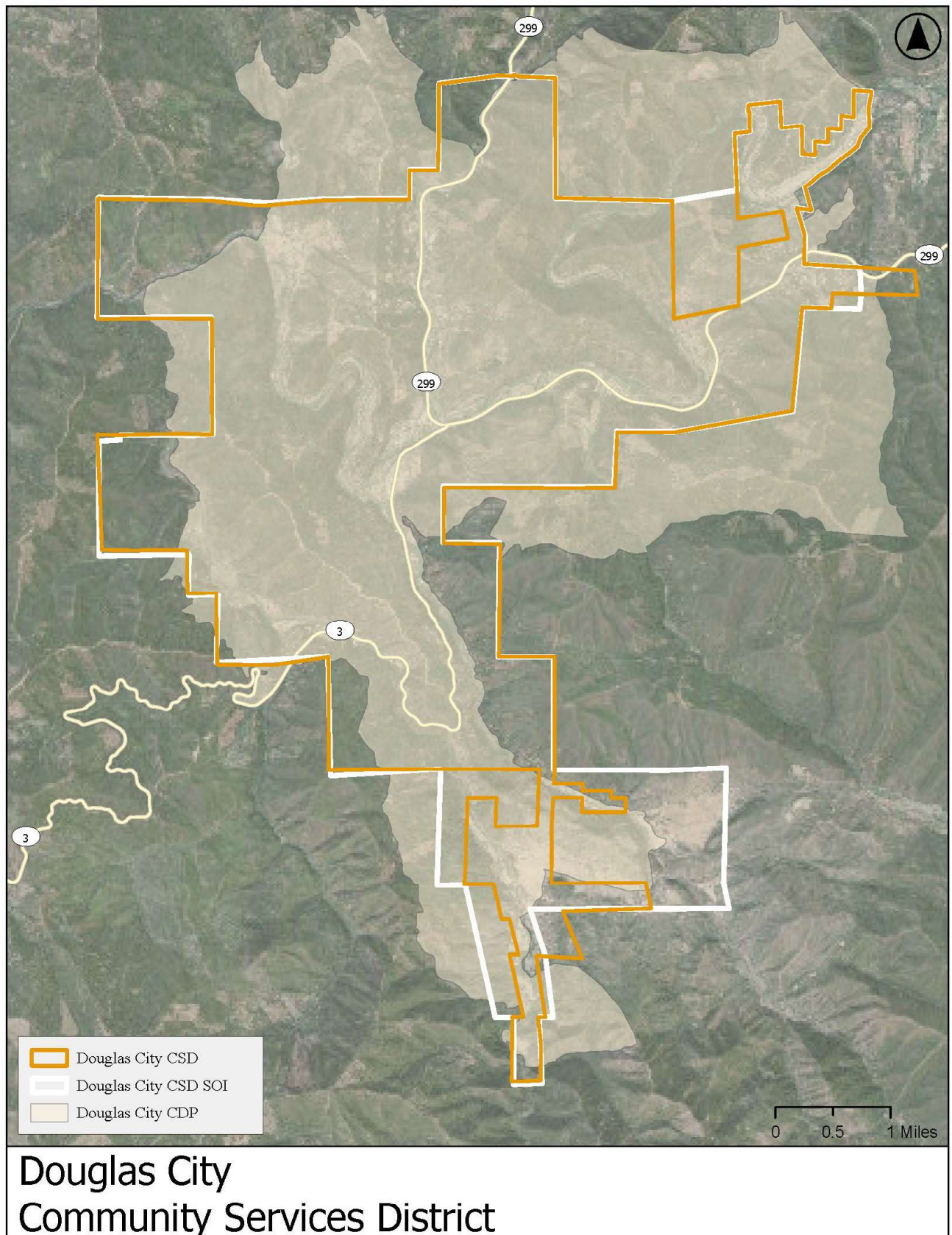
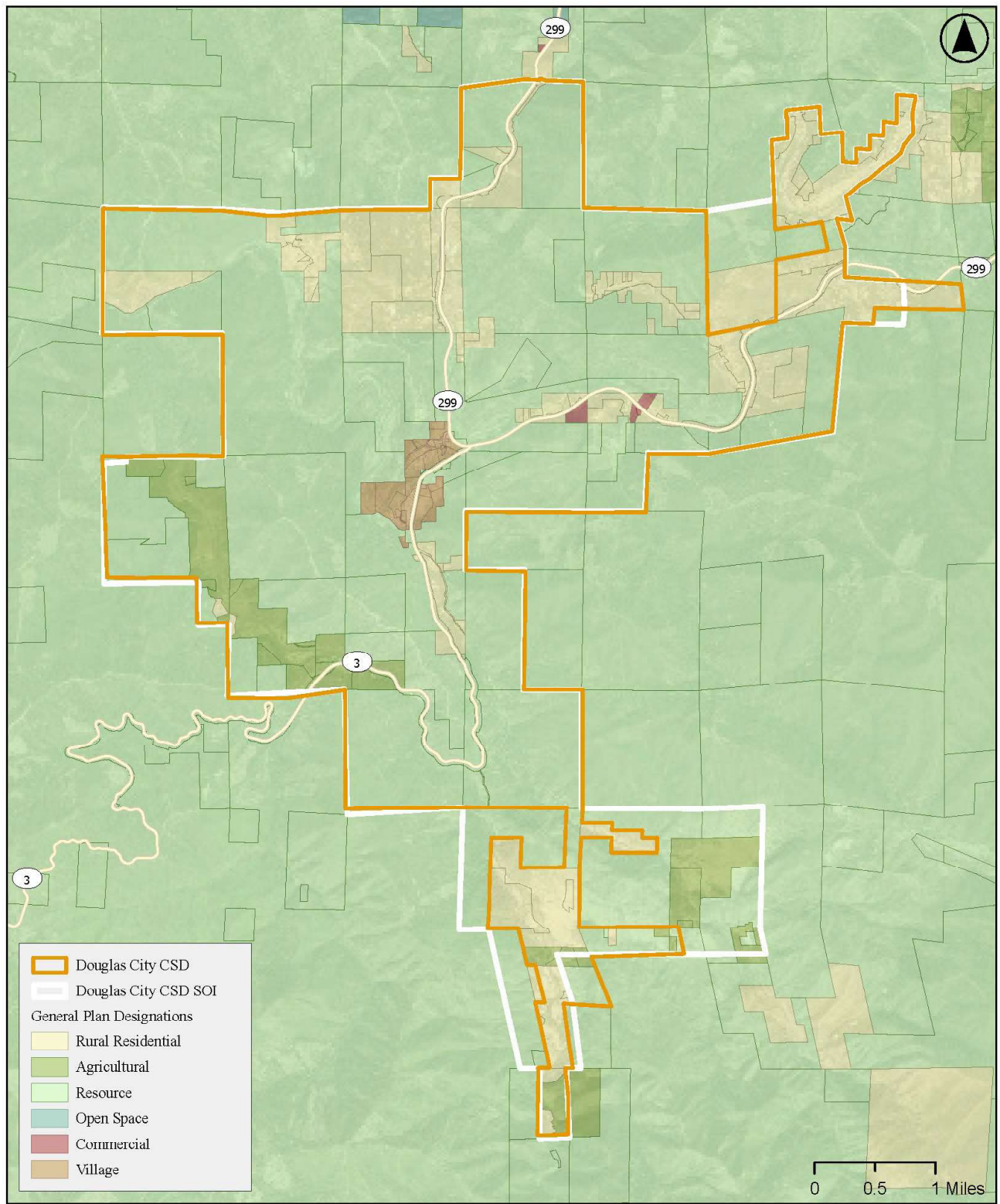


Figure 3-2: Douglas City CSD Land Use



Douglas City CSD Land Use

Growth and Population

The population of Douglas City CDP is approximately 868¹ according to the 2020 decennial Census data. American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic and Housing Estimates approximate the District's 2021 population to be 951². However, the ACS 5-Year data estimates have a large margin of error and are known to be less accurate than decennial Census data.

The Douglas City CDP has similar boundaries to the District but does contain additional lands, particularly in the northeast, that are not included in the District's boundaries. The Douglas City CDP has an area of 19,480 acres which is 5,384 acres more than the District's boundary area; however, much of this additional area appears to be densely forested and undeveloped and as such, likely does not substantially differ from population estimates for the District.

Trinity County's population was estimated to be 16,112³ as of the 2020 decennial Census. According to the California Department of Transportation (DOT), the County's population is expected to decline by 0.4 percent per year from 2021-2026. Based on the estimated population and historical growth for the area, it is unlikely that the District will grow substantially over the next five to ten years. It is likely that the District's population will follow a similar trend to that of the County, declining by 0.4 percent each year.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

The 2021 estimated median household income (MHI) of the District is \$48,346⁴ according to the ACS 5-Year Estimates, which is approximately 57 percent of the 2021 estimated California MHI of \$84,907. The County has an estimated MHI of \$42,206, which is almost 50 percent of the State's MHI. Thus, both the County and the District qualify as disadvantaged.

3.2 GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Governing Body

Douglas City CSD is an independent special district served by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected to four-year staggered terms. Board meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Main Station located at 100 Steiner Flat Road. Board members do not receive stipends for attending meetings.

Board agendas and notices are posted at the Main Station bulletin board at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act which require agendas to be posted at least 72 hours in advance of scheduled Board meetings in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public.

Table 3-2: Board of Directors

Board Member	Title	Term
Arnold Whitridge	Director	12/4/2020 - 12/6/2024
James White	Director	12/2/2022 - 12/4/2026
Angela Blanchard	Vice Chair	12/2/2022 - 12/4/2026
Dianna Cross	Director	2/2/2022 - 12/4/2026

¹ Table P1, Decennial Census, 2020.

² Table DP05 ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, 2021.

³ Table P1 Race, Decennial Census, 2020.

⁴ Table S1903 Median Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2021.

Terry Merritt	Chair	12/4/2020 - 12/6/2024
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Staffing

Douglas City CSD does not currently employ full-time or part-time employees. The District has a Fire Chief, Board Secretary, and Bookkeeper that collectively oversee the majority of administrative responsibilities for the District. The Fire Chief receives a \$50 per month stipend for maintaining District facilities. The District currently has 11 volunteers, with two new recruits that are still in training (probationary).

Accountability and Transparency

SB929 was signed into law on September 14, 2018, requiring all independent special districts to have and maintain a website meeting all the special district transparency requirements of State law including the availability of agendas, policies, and financial information by January 1, 2020. In order to increase ease of access, overall transparency, and come into compliance with SB929, the District is encouraged to develop and maintain a website. However, this is often an undue burden for rural districts with limited staffing and resources. SB929 allows for districts to file for hardship each year to be exempt from maintaining a website. It is recommended that the District annually adopt a resolution of hardship until financial and staff resources improve and allow for a website to be maintained without causing undue burden.

As mentioned previously, Board meeting agendas are posted at the Main Station at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in compliance with the Brown Act. Copies of meeting materials and minutes are available upon request. The District complies with all annual audit requirements and files annual Financial Transactions Reports with the State Controller's Office.

Table 3-3: SB929 Website Posting Requirements

Type of Requirement	Description of Requirement	Is the District in compliance?
District Contact Information	The bill does not state the specific contact information required. We recommend posting, at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Physical address o Mailing address o Phone number o E-mail address 	No.
Most Recent Agenda	The most recent agenda must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting o Linked on the homepage of the website, navigating directly to the current agenda o Searchable, indexable, and platform-independent (simply put, post the agenda as a PDF) 	No.
Financial Transaction Report	The State Controller's report for the District's Financial Transaction report must be posted or linked to the corresponding State Controller website.	No.
Staff Compensation Report	The State Controller's report for the District's Staff Compensation report must be posted or linked to the corresponding State Controller website.	No.
Enterprise System Catalog	As required by SB272, the Enterprise System Catalog must be posted. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Current system vendor o Current System product 	No.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ System's purpose ○ A description of categories or types of data ○ Department that is the prime data custodian ○ Frequency in which system data is collected and updated 	
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

3.3 SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Service Overview

Douglas City CSD owns and maintains two fire stations that serve Douglas City, Poker Bar, and residences along Reading Creek Road and Indian Creek Road in the southeast, B-Bar-K Road in the west, and Deerlick Springs Road to the south.

The District's main station is a three-bay apparatus building located at 100 Steiner Flat Road that currently houses a rescue, Type 1 engine, Type 3 engine, Type 6 engine, and water tender. Recent station improvements include a backup generator for emergency power supply, exterior painting of the building, new roll up door, two duct-free mini-splits for heating and cooling, and exterior cameras. The station is equipped with internet (repeater housed on building), and has space for tables and a screen in one of the bay areas for meetings and trainings.

Fire Station #2 has two bays with two engines and is located at 411 Bridge Road. Fire Station #2 was established to serve homes along Poker Bar in accordance with the recommendations made in the Douglas City Community Plan of 1987. This station does not have an onsite water system. Recently, two 5,000-gallon water tanks were installed for water supply at this location. Recently a duct-free mini-split for heating and cooling was installed at the station.

Demand

Douglas City CSD responds to an average of 160-180 emergency calls per year. The department responded to approximately 178 calls for service in 2021, of which 1 call was structure fire, 109 calls, or 61 percent, were medical related. Other calls, such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 38 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services.

Table 3-3-4: Douglas City CSD Call Status Summary

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Structure Fire				1	
Medical				109	
Other				68	
TOTAL CALLS			157	178	169

[To be expanded once call data is received]

Personnel

Douglas City CSD has a chief, two captains, and 8 volunteer firefighters for a total roster of 11 active members, with two in training. All firefighters are CPR and First Responder certified. Of these personnel, __ are trained as Fire Fighter 1 or above, __ are trained in Wildland (CICCS), and __ are trained in Hazardous Materials Operations.

District firefighters participate in a regular drill on the ___of each month, with two eight hour basic skill drills per year for all personnel. Training schedules consist of general operations, safety and medical. The drills are planned and conducted by the department training officers. All volunteers carry radio/pagers for alarm notification. The Department has established Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Incident Management System (IMS) for fire department emergency operations.

Training Qualification	# of Members Trained
Fire Fighter I or above	—
Wildland (CICCS)	—
First Responder (EMR)	—
EMT	—
Paramedic	—
HazMat First Responder Ops.	—
Rope Rescue	—
Swift Water Rescue	—
Fire Investigation	—
Fire Instructor	—
Driver/Operator	—

[To be expanded once training data is received]

Recruitment and Retention

Douglas City CSD is always looking for more recruits. Each year the District mails a letter to the community providing an update on the department, encouraging new volunteers, and requesting donations. The District is also working to establish a larger social media presence to provide important information to the community. The Douglas City Fire Belles are also very active in community fundraising efforts to ensure that the Douglas City volunteer firefighters are outfitted with the tools and gear that they need to perform their duties.

Infrastructure and Facilities

The District has one Type I engine, two Type IV engines, and one Type I water tender as of 2022⁵. The District has recently contracted with a company to complete annual testing of pumps, hoses, and ladders (confirm).

Recently the District was able to upgrade SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) worn to provide breathable air in hazardous environments from donations and fundraisers. The equipment has to be inspected and recertified every four years and the original SCBA packs, purchased in 2006, had come to the end of their certifiable life. Twenty new bottles were acquired, and 10 packs were rebuilt at a total cost of \$18,069, which was split evenly between the CSD and the Douglas City Fire Belles. The Douglas City Fire Belles also funded \$1,000 for the



⁵ CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit, 2022 Strategic Fire Plan, 2022.

purchase of three GPS units to aid in their response to wildland fires where the location can only be identified by GPS coordinates.

The District has also been successful in receiving grant funds for equipment purchases. Grants have been received from the Redding Rancheria, McConnell Foundation, Humboldt Area Foundation Disaster Response and Resilience Fund (\$10k), Trinity Trust's Community Response Grant Program (\$5k), CAL FIRE Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant (50/50 match), and others.

Table 3-5: Douglas City CSD Apparatus Information

Station	Station Address	Apparatus No.	Common Name	Year Built	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
Fire Station #1	96024 Steiner Flat Road	2732	International	1987	Type 3	750	500
		2731	Ford F550	2008	Type 6	120	400
		2751	Dodge	2012	Rescue	n/a	n/a
		274__	International	1999	Tender	450	3,000
		2711	Pierce	1990	Type 1	1,250	500
Fire Station #2	411 Bridge Road	2721	GMC	1984	Type 2	1,000	1,000

ISO Rating

The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, Douglas City CSD has a “__” rating. In addition, Douglas City is a certified Firewise Community/USA, which can help provide discounts on homeowners insurance.

Challenges and Needs

Like many small rural departments, Douglas City CSD is challenged with aging equipment and facilities, and member recruitment and retention. The District specifically noted that it needs a Type 3 engine. Currently they only have 2-wheel drive capabilities, and 4-wheel drive is preferred to serve more isolated areas and off-road terrain.

Shared Services

Douglas City CSD is available for mutual aid upon request. The District has automatic aid agreements with Weaverville FPD and Lewiston CSD to respond on 1st alarm to all structure fire calls.

The District and CAL FIRE enact annual agreements for cooperative wildland fire management activities. As part of these agreements, both entities engage in mutual aid on District lands that are intermingled or adjacent to CAL FIRE managed lands. Additionally, the District receives seasonal reimbursements for in-unit wildland fire assignments (via assistance by hire and equipment rental). Douglas City typically provides staff resources and supplies a water tender and one or more engines to accompany.

Douglas City CSD is also partnering with the Watershed Research and Training Center to provide staffing for fuels reduction projects that are planned for the Browns Creek watershed (B Bar K, Jordan Road, Deerlick Springs areas). The Watershed Center provides reimbursement for staffing and equipment rental (engine).

Other Service Providers

Water

The Weaverville Community Services District provides water services to Weaverville and Douglas City. Some households depend on individual water wells.

Wastewater

There are no service providers providing wastewater service to Douglas City; instead, the community relies primarily on individual septic tanks for sewage disposal.

Solid Waste Disposal

Douglas City has two nearby transfer stations available for solid waste disposal: Weaverville Transfer Station at 173 Tom Bell Road, and Hayfork Transfer Station at 372 Dump Road.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Trinity Public Utilities District (TPUD) manages and distributes power throughout most of Trinity County. TPUD purchases its power from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) pursuant to a first preference right to power produced by the Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project⁶. TPUD does not operate any generation assets but instead provides sub-transmission and electricity distribution to approximately 12,000 customers in a 2,200 square mile area in Trinity County. There are nine substations which are both owned and operated by both WAPA (five served from this transmission system) and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) (four served from this transmission system). Trinity County has eight hydroelectric facilities that are either operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation or privately owned. These facilities are part of California's Central Valley Project and generate hydroelectric power. Energy produced by these facilities is managed by WAPA and transmitted to customers by TPUD.

PG&E is the only designated natural gas provider in the County. However, despite this designation, PG&E does not offer natural gas service to most areas within the County, leaving residents to rely on propane for natural gas needs.

Telecommunications

Verizon, AT&T, and other major service providers provide wireless telephone and broadband internet services to Douglas City. Wired telephone and cable internet service is offered by Velocity Communications. Velocity Communications offers services to over 700 square miles across Trinity, Shasta, and Humboldt Counties, including the Trinity County communities of Weaverville, Hayfork, Trinity Center, Lewiston, Junction City, and Douglas City. Satellite internet service is provided by HughesNet, Space Exploration Technology's (SpaceX) Starlink, and Viasat.

Emergency Medical Services

Trinity Life Support Community Services District (TLSCSD) operates two ambulances, one stationed in Hayfork and one in Weaverville, with a 2,100 square mile response area. Annually, the TLSCSD receives an average of 1,500 calls. The TLSCSD provides training in the areas of emergency preparedness, emergency medical technician, emergency medical responder, and public safety first aid while also offering American Heart Association community and professional level courses.

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⁶ Trinity River Division Act of 1955

administrative, professional, and technical staffing support. The managing support agreement allows TLSCSD to maintain all their real property assets including ambulances and collectible taxes, while MCHD provides all ambulance services staffing, including administrative support (HR, billing, finance, administration, and other resources) to provide better economies of scale and reimbursement through MCHD's Critical Access Hospital designation.

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3.4 FINANCING

Financial Overview

The Douglas City CSD Board of Directors is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal accounting control. The District's Bookkeeper presents monthly financial reports to the Board for review and approval. The basic financial statements of the District are prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Government Code Section 61110 requires a preliminary budget to be adopted on or before July 1 of each year and a final budget to be adopted on or before September 1 of each year. A copy of the final budget must be forwarded to the County Auditor-Controller. Douglas City CSD complies with this requirement.

Revenues and Expenditures

Douglas City CSD is primarily supported through property taxes (also known as "ad valorem" taxes) as well as grants, donations, and interest revenue. Total revenue averaged approximately \$93,000 per year over the last three years, with higher-than-average income in fiscal year 2022-23 due to grants received. Donations, including funding from the Douglas City Fire Belles, account for 45-50% of total revenue. Primary operating expenses are equipment maintenance

and acquisition, supplies, fuel, insurance, and firefighting payroll. The following table provides annual average operating revenue and expenditures for the last three years.

Table 3-6: Douglas City CSD Adopted Budgets (FY 22-24)

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Income			
Property Tax	\$4,000.00	\$4,100.00	\$4,350.00
Workman's Comp Contribution	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
Charges for Services	\$15,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$15,000.00
Donations	\$27,200.00	\$29,000.00	\$25,500.00
Fire Belles	\$16,100.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Grants	\$0.00	\$31,400.00	\$10,000.00
Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00
Misc Income (burn permits, hall rental)	\$400.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,100.00
Interest	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$2,500.00
Total Revenues	\$64,400.00	\$136,200.00	\$79,100.00
Expenditures			
Firefighting (payroll)	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Supplies (office, firefighting, misc)	\$19,300.00	\$6,600.00	\$7,000.00
Maintenance (buildings/equipment)	\$4,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Fuel	\$3,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Insurance	\$20,600.00	\$22,600.00	\$24,700.00
Utilities	\$4,000.00	\$4,400.00	\$5,700.00
Promotion	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,500.00
Training	\$300.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00
Misc Expenses	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Audit/Financial Transaction Reports	\$5,600.00	\$600.00	\$5,600.00
Audit Reserve Fund	(\$2,500.00)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Contingency	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Capital Items	\$0.00	\$31,400.00	\$0.00
Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures	\$64,400.00	\$136,200.00	\$79,100.00

State Controller's Office

The District has submitted annual financial transactions reports to the State Controller's Office consistently since 2003 in accordance with Government Code Section 61118(b). According to the State Controller's Office, the District had an overall revenue of \$260,364 and expenditures of \$158,096 in FY 2021-2022. This is a net gain of \$102,268, which is an increase in financial standing from FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 which had net losses of \$12,803 and \$3,352, respectively. A summary of the past six fiscal years is below (**Table 3-5**).

Out of the years reviewed, the largest source of revenue for the District was from property owners' contributions or other intergovernmental sources depending on the year. Expenses consisted of the following: services and supplies; employee benefits; salaries and wages; and capital outlay. Typically, either services and supplies or salaries and wages were the largest contributing factors to the overall expenditures.

Table 3-7: State Controller's Office Summary

	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
Revenues	\$34,937	\$105,377	\$181,223	\$54,463	\$50,208	\$260,364
Expenditures	\$42,362	\$102,756	\$133,922	\$67,266	\$53,560	\$158,096
Net Gain/(Loss)	(\$7,425)	\$2,621	\$47,301	(\$12,803)	(\$3,352)	\$102,268

Audits

The District prepares biennial audits. The most current audit will be available in January for the years ending June 2022 and June 2023. This section will be updated once the audit report is received.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

Douglas City CSD receives a small percentage of ad valorem property taxes and relies on community donations, grants, and seasonal reimbursements from CAL FIRE (via strike team response, assistance by hire, or equipment rental) to fund services. The District does not have a special tax or assessment in place, which could be levied within the district boundary to effectively manage recurring costs, such as those associated with insurance, utilities, fuel, and equipment. In order to increase revenue to a sustainable level, the District could consider the following actions:

- Annex into the District any out of district service areas which receive goodwill services.
- Adopt an ordinance and fee schedule which charges out-of-district residents for services provided; especially for response to traffic accidents on Highway 299 or Highway 3.
- Pursue a special tax or assessment which would require approval from registered voters or property owners within the District boundaries.